

CITY OF BRIDGE CITY
P. O. Box 846 ~ 260 Rachal
Bridge City, Texas 77611 – 0846
409-735-6801 www.bridgecitytex.com
Office Hours - Monday – Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

THIS REPORT WILL BE
PROVIDED TO OUR
CUSTOMERS ON A
ANNUAL BASIS AS
REQUIRED OF ALL CITIES
BY THE UNITED STATES
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY

2005 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report)

Special Notice for the ELDERLY, INFANTS, CANCER PATIENTS, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune problems:

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders. Some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Our Drinking Water Meets or Exceeds All Federal (EPA) Drinking Water Requirements

This report is a summary of the quality of the water we provide our customers. The analysis was made by using the data from the most recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required tests and is presented in the attached pages. We hope this information helps you become more knowledgeable about what is in your drinking water.

WATER SOURCES: The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals, and in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water before treatment include: microbes, inorganic contaminants, pesticides, herbicides, radioactive contaminants, and organic chemical contaminants.

Public Participation Opportunities

Date: July 18, 2006

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: Bridge City, City Hall

Phone No.: (409) 735 – 6801

En Espanol

Este reporte incluye informacion importante sobre el agua para tomar. Si tiene preguntas o discusiones sobre este reporte en espanol, favor de llamar al tel. (409) 735 - 6801 par hablar con una persona bilingue en espanol.

To learn about future public meetings
(Concerning your drinking water), or request to schedule one, please call us.

Where do we get our drinking water?

Our drinking water is obtained from GROUND water sources. It comes from the following Lake/River/Reservoir/Aquifer:

CHICOT. The TCEQ has completed an assessment for our source water and results indicate that some of our sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for our water system are based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detections of these contaminants will be found in this report. If we receive or purchase water from another system, their susceptibility is not included in this assessment. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, please contact us.

ALL drinking water may contain contaminants.

When drinking water meets federal standards there may not be any health based benefits to purchasing bottled water or point of use devices.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Secondary Constituents

Many constituents (such as calcium, sodium, or iron) which are often found in drinking water, can cause taste, color, and odor problems. The taste and odor constituents are called secondary constituents and are regulated by the State of Texas, not EPA. These constituents are not causes for health concerns. Therefore, secondaries are not required to be reported in this document but they may greatly affect the appearance and taste of your water.

About the Following Pages:

The pages that follow list all the federally regulated or monitored contaminants which have been found in your drinking water. The U.S. EPA requires water systems to test up to 97 for contaminants.

DEFINITIONS:

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):

The highest permissible level of a contaminant in drinking water. MCLs are set close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):

The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)

The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)

The level of drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

Treatment Technique (TT):

A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Action Level (AL):

The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

ABBREVIATIONS

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units

MFL: Million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)

pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)

ppt: parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter

ppq: parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

Inorganics

Year (Range)	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2005	Barium	0.165	0.165	0.165	2	2	ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
2005	Fluoride	0.5	0.5	0.5	4	4	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
2005	Nitrate	0.01	0.01	0.01	10	10	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
2005	Selenium	6.2	6.2	6.2	50	50	ppb	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines.

Organic Contaminants TERSTING WAIVED, NOT REPORTED, OR NONE DETECTED

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

Year	Disinfectant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Disinfectant
2005	Chlorine Residual, Free	1.08	0	2.5	4	4	ppm	Disinfectant used to control microbes

Disinfection Byproducts

Year	Contaminants	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2005	Total Haloacetic Acids	13.2	10.7	16.6	60	ppb	By-Product of drinking water disinfection.
2005	Total Trihalomethanes	78.3	53.1	98.4	80	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

Unregulated Contaminants – Bromoform Chloroform, Dichlorobromomethane, and dibromochloromethane are disinfection byproducts. There is no maximum contaminant level for these chemicals at the entry point of distribution.

Year (Range)	Constituent	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2005 2003	Chloroform	3.8	0	8.3	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
2005 2003	Bromoform	7.1	0	16	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
2005 2003	Bromodichloromethane	8.67	0	16	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
2005 2003	Dibromochloromethane	15.23	0.7	25	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

Lead and Copper

Year	Constituent	The 90 th Percentile	Number of Sites Exceeding Action Level	Action Level	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2004	Lead	2.8	1	15	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems. Erosions of natural deposits.
2004	Copper	.0263	0	1.3	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems. Erosion of natural deposits. Leaching from wood preservatives.

Turbidity NOT REQUIRED

Total Coliform REPORTED MONTHLY TESTS FOUND NO COLIFORM BACTERIA

Fecal Coliform REPORTED MONTHLY TESTS FOUND NO FECAL COLIFORM BACTERIA

Secondary and Other Not Regulated Constituents

(No associated adverse health effects)

Year (Range)	Constituent	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	Secondary Limit	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2005	Bicarbonate	214.667	192	226	NA	ppm	Corrosion of carbonate rocks such as limestone
2005	Calcium	7.330	2.45	9.77	NA	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element
2005	Chloride	259.333	94	342	300	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element; used in water purification; byproduct of oil field activity
2005	Copper	0.004	0.004	0.004	NA	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
2005	Iron	0.160	0.1	0.19	0.3	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; iron or steel water delivery equipment or facilities
2005	Magnesium	1.967	0	2.95	NA	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element
2005	Manganese	58.200	28.6	73	50	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element
2005	pH	7.567	7.4	7.9	NA	units	Measure of corrosivity of water
2005	Sodium	232.000	128	284	NA	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; byproduct of oil field activity
2005	Total Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	175.667	157	185	NA	ppm	Naturally occurring soluble mineral salts
2005	Total Dissolved Solids	616.000	350	749	1000	ppm	Total dissolved mineral constituents in water
2005	Total Hardness as CaCO ₃	26.370	6.11	36.5	NA	ppm	Naturally occurring calcium
2005	Zinc	6.967	0	20.9	5000	ppb	Moderately abundant naturally occurring element; used in the metal industry

What You Should Know About Your Water Utility

What does a water utility do?

Water utilities take raw water from lakes, rivers or underground aquifers and treat it to human consumption standards set by the federal government. They then distribute the water throughout the communities they serve.

How does the treatment process work?

Turning raw water into drinking water can be a lengthy process. First, the utility pumps water from the source to the plant. There, it generally undergoes a series of treatments to kill harmful organisms, improve taste and odor, and remove sediment. The water is then stored in tanks until it is needed.

What happens after our water is treated?

The treated water is pumped through large pipes throughout the community. Smaller pipes direct water to individual households. There, residents use the water for a variety of purposes both inside and outside the house.

What are the major inside uses?

Inside uses include drinking, cooking, bathing, flushing toilets, and washing dishes and clothes. A family of four on average uses about 8,000 gallons of water indoors each month.

What about outside uses?

Outdoor use fluctuates. More water is consumed outside during the hotter months, as we water our lawns and gardens, wash our cars, and fill our pools. In the summer, water utilities experience increases of as much as 250 percent in average daily water consumption.

Does this create any problems for the water utilities?

Yes, it does! Outside water use can cause significant strain on a utility's ability to produce enough treated water to keep up with demand. Stored reserves can be depleted quickly if we all water our lawns at the same time. Then the system has to work overtime to treat more raw water.

That in turn creates another problem: equipment used nonstop around the clock is prone to failure. This can mean a complete outage or low pressure.

In both cases, there is danger that bacteria can infiltrate and spread through pipelines, so that even when normal service is restored, the community must boil its water for several days. And low or no pressure in a water system also can mean real trouble if a fire breaks out in the community.

Doesn't the state require that treatment plants be built with excess capacity so they can keep up with growing demand?

Yes, but population growth and development have exceeded projections in many parts of Texas. Most of the almost 7,000 water utilities in Texas are small systems lacking financial resources to expand enough to allow for unlimited water consumption. Even if they could expand, finding additional raw water takes money to buy extra surface water rights from the person who owns the rights to that water or to drill new or deeper wells to pump more groundwater.

Is there any way we can help assure our communities of sufficient supplies of drinking water apart from costly expansions of our treatment facilities?

Yes. We can all be "Water Smart" by taking simple steps that conserve water and save money at home.

What are some simple, money-saving steps to conserve water?

Water conservation means preventing waste:

- ▶ Take shorter showers
- ▶ Turn off the faucet while brushing teeth
- ▶ Run the dishwasher and washing machine with full loads only
- ▶ Water lawns only when necessary
- ▶ Landscape with drought- and heat- tolerant plants.

Most of these steps cost absolutely nothing to implement. Better yet, they can reduce household water bills and the need for costly upgrades to water treatment facilities.

A HELPFUL GUIDE TO INDOOR AND OUTDOOR WATER USE

START SAVING WATER AND MONEY TODAY

Don't waste water waiting for it to heat up!

Insulate your hot water pipes. It will take less time for the water to heat; therefore, less water will be wasted. Another way to save water that you may consider, is installing an instant water heater in your sink. This will also eliminate the waste of waiting for tap water to heat up.

Remember, saving water when doing household chores is easy!

Use the dishwasher to wash your dishes. The dishwasher generally use less water than hand washing does. Also, fill the dishwasher and washing machine completely before using them, so you don't waste water by having to do a greater number of incomplete loads.

You can save water by putting high efficiency aerators on all of your faucets.

Most faucets flow at a rate of 4 to 6 gallons per minute. Low-flow aerators cut that flow in half. You end up saving 5 to 10 gallons of water each day!

During the summer months, 50-80% of water used in a household is used for outdoor watering! But how much watering does your lawn really need?

Most plants and grass need long roots for healthy growth. If you give them a light sprinkling every day, the roots don't grow long. One inch of water each week will keep your grass green and healthy.

A leaky toilet can waste more than 20,000 gallons of water a year!

Try the toilet leak test: Take the lid off your toilet tank and drop a couple of food coloring drops into the tank. Wait ten minutes. If you have a leak, the bowl water will change colors. It may be a bad flapper that can be replaced inexpensively!

Use a high-efficiency showerhead to save water!

The last time you took a shower, you used about 42 gallons of water. A high-efficiency showerhead installed can save a family of four nearly 34,500 gallons of water each year.

The Source	Water Waster
Leaking Toilet	90 Gallons per Day 2,738 Gallons per Month 32,850 Gallons per Year
10 Minute Shower with Inefficient Shower Head 2 People in Household	30 Gallons per Shower 420 Gallons per Week 21,840 Gallons per Year
Dripping Faucet (2 drips per second)	A Slow Steady Drip (.72 Gallons per Hour): 17 Gallons per Day 526 Gallons per Month 6,307 Gallons per Year

Here's an easy way to gauge your sprinkling needs:

- ▶ Set 4 to 6 empty 12-oz. tuna cans at different distances from the sprinkler head, including one at the outside edge of the watering coverage.
- ▶ Run the sprinkler for 10 minutes.
- ▶ Using a ruler, measure the amount of water collected in each can.
- ▶ Add the measurements from each can and then divide the total by the number of cans to get an average.
- ▶ Multiply this average by six to determine how many inches of water would be applied in an hour.

It's best to water your lawn thoroughly 1 to 2 inches at a time to encourage deep root growth. (Don't forget to factor in any rainfall.)

How frequently you should water depends on the kind of lawn you have:

Common Bermuda: every 8 to 10 days

St. Augustine: every 4 to 5 days

Hybrid Bermuda: every 5 to 8 days

Buffalo grass: every 2 to 5 weeks

- ▶ Remember: excessively hot and dry weather will cause most turf grasses to go dormant and turn brown. Grass will green up with cooler temperatures, so resist the temptation to over water.
- ▶ Reduce your watering frequency to once every five days. This encourages deeper, more drought-tolerant roots.
- ▶ If it rains an inch or more, wait at least five days to water.
- ▶ Mulch trees and plants to retain moisture and prevent evaporation. If your sprinkler sprays a fine mist, you're losing a lot of water to evaporation. Try a different sprinkler head or better yet a drip system.
- ▶ When washing your car, use a cut-off nozzle instead of running the hose continuously. This will save 8 gallons of water per minute.
- ▶ When installing a new lawn or planning landscaping, consider using plant and grass varieties that are adapted to your site and require little supplemental water once established.

Why should I be concerned about outside water use?

As summer temperatures rise and rainfall decreases, more of a community's drinking water supplies are used for outside purposes, such as watering lawns and plants, refilling swimming pools, and the like. Outdoor activities use much more water than inside uses, such as bathing, cooking, and washing.

So why is this a problem?

If demand for outside use is greater than your utility's supply of raw water or capacity to treat that water, there may not be enough treated water for all uses, including inside water needs or for fire protection. And when pumping and treatment equipment is overworked, equipment failures can occur, creating water outages.

Why can't my water system produce enough water for all needs?

The majority of Texas water systems produce more than enough drinking water year-round. It's only during excessively hot and dry periods that demand outpaces supply. Water systems - and their customers - would incur big costs (we're talking in the million-dollar range!) if they had to expand treatment facilities to produce enough drinking water to meet all potential needs.

Is that why my water utility wants me and my neighbors to water on different days in the summer time?

Yes! By managing water use during hot and dry times, you'll have less impact on your water system while meeting your own needs.

But I pay for the water I use. If I can afford it, why can't I buy it?

Water utilities ask their customers to reduce their water use only when necessary. If a community drains its drinking water supplies, the health and safety of all citizens are at risk.

What kinds of health and safety risks?

No drinking water means unsanitary conditions inside residences and businesses and no means of fighting fires. And water pipes are susceptible to contamination when water pressure is low.

OK, I'm convinced! What can I do to help my water system in hot, dry weather?

The most important things are to follow your systems program to reduce water use and be efficient when you use water outside.

Does that mean I can't water my lawn and outside plants?

No. Most landscapes get more water than they need. You can keep landscaping alive even during the worst summer heat with these practical tips:

- ▶ Water lawns only when needed. Putting 1.5 inches of water on your lawn every 5 to 7 days will encourage deep root systems and make for healthier grass.
- ▶ Use native or adapted plants that do well on little water.
- ▶ Mulch plants to hold in moisture and limit weed growth.
- ▶ Install efficient irrigation systems. Avoid sprinklers with fine sprays, which lose much of their water to wind and evaporation.
- ▶ Use drip irrigation systems for bedded plants, trees, and shrubs.
- ▶ Adjust automatic sprinkler heads so that they water your landscaping, not the pavement or the sidewalks.
- ▶ Water lawns during the early morning or evening hours to prevent evaporation.
- ▶ Never water on windy days.

Bills are due and payable upon receipt. If payment is not received by the 18th of each month, the bill will be considered delinquent and a fee added. PLEASE ALLOW AT LEAST 10 DAYS IF MAILING. If bill is not received on or before the 28th of each month, service will be disconnected and an additional fee will be added. You may request no more that 4 extensions to pay per calendar year – an additional 14 days can be granted without additional fees. A drive-thru depository is available for your convenience 24 hours a day. Direct withdrawal from your bank account on the 13th of each month is also available. Failure to receive a bill does not entitle payment without penalty.

CITY OF BRIDGE CITY
P. O. BOX 846
BRIDGE CITY, TX 77611-0846

PRESORT STANDARD
ZIP + 4
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
BRIDGE CITY, TX 77611
PERMIT #6